

Preface

Advances and Updates in Internal Medicine



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Guest Editor

Let the young know they will never find a more interesting, more instructive book than the patient himself.

—Giorgio Baglivi

Through our patients we, as veterinarians, learn and develop our anecdotes, our n = 1, and eventually our clinical impressions. It is through our patients that we experience the elation of being right and the cemented weight of being completely at a loss.

When I was in veterinary school, I asked one of my professors to give me advice on what I could do to become a better exotic animal practitioner. Poised with paper and pen, I was ready for whatever recommendations were to be given, or so I thought. My professor said to me, “Don’t ever forget that medicine is medicine.” I was initially somewhat offended; that seemed as informative to me as telling me that there are gravitational forces affecting the earth. Through the years, however, that simple statement has been its own gravitational, steadyng force.

The contributions to this issue echo that same sentiment. Hyperthyroidism in guinea pigs still requires a minimum database and has a similar work-up as does hyperthyroidism in cats. Diagnostic imaging techniques are no different in koi than in canine patients. Prolonged anorexia has to be addressed in order for patients to receive daily nutritional requirements; stomach tubes work even when they are fed in through the nose.

With the help of contributing authors, the first portion of this issue attempts to provide updates on common diseases, such as reptile metabolic bone disease and avian renal disease syndromes. Where applicable, evidence-based research studies are cited to justify treatment modalities. When the research studies are lacking, the authors have cited their own opinions to explain therapies.

The second part of this issue focuses on advances; in general, this information is underreported, as in the case of guinea pig hyperthyroidism in the United States, or it is a new explanation of an old syndrome, like the exciting proventricular dilatation disease research presented. For all submissions, I am appreciative, and for the honor of being asked to guest edit this edition, I am humbled.

Use these articles for reference, information, and confirmation when seeing patients who look just like what an article describes. More importantly, if you have a question, contact the authors. We all learn when we share experiences. If, in communicating with authors, you see that $n = 1$ is really $n = 5$, consider writing a peer-reviewed article to advance the body of evidence based veterinary medicine for avian and exotic pets. If every patient is a book, just think of all the information yet to be discovered. So go palpate, go listen, and then go document.

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